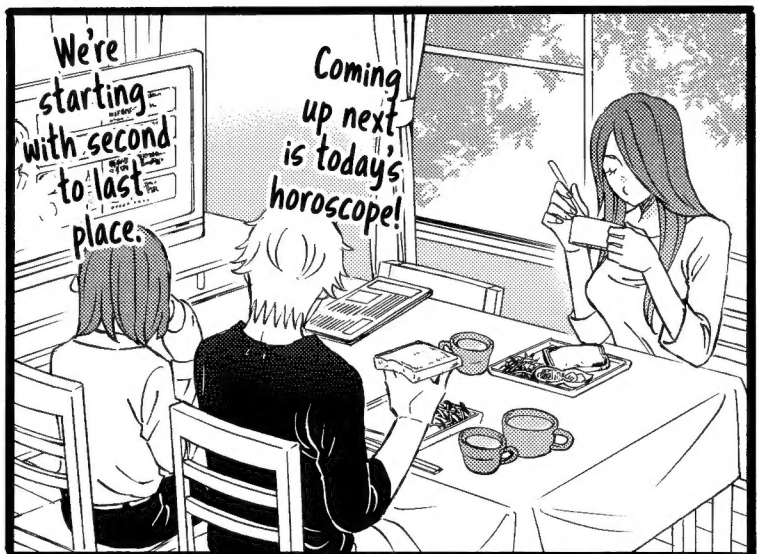
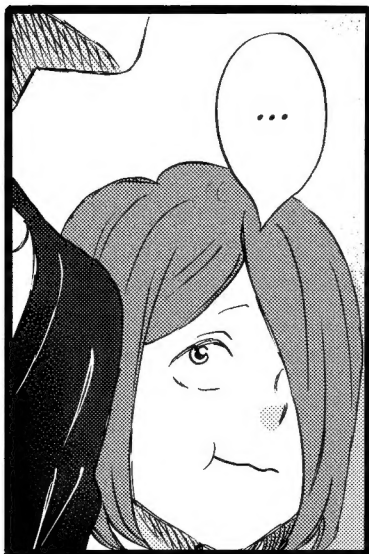
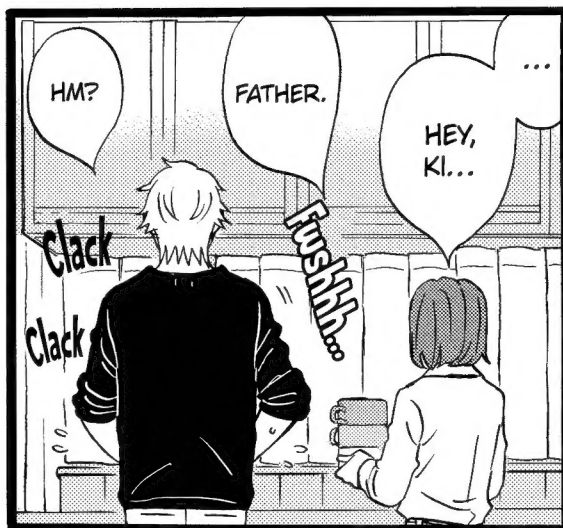
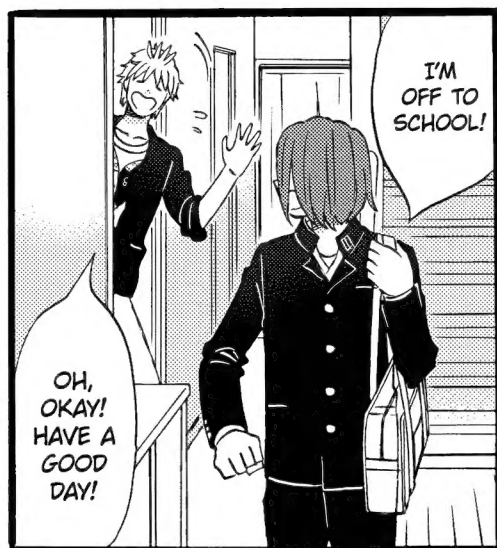
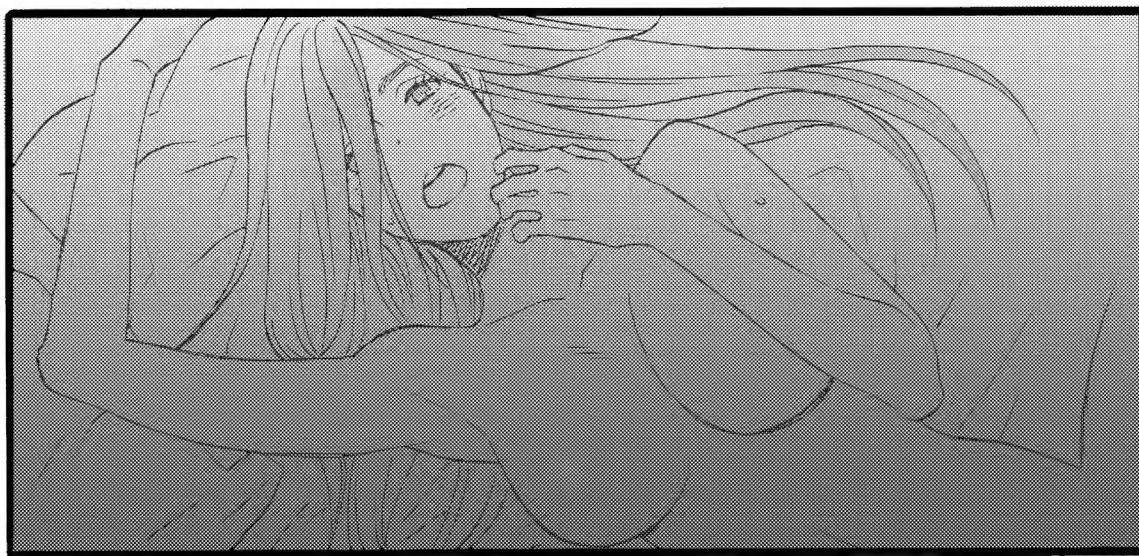
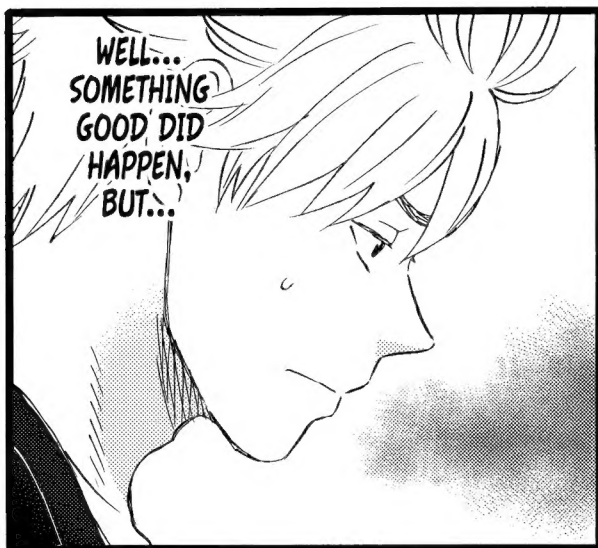
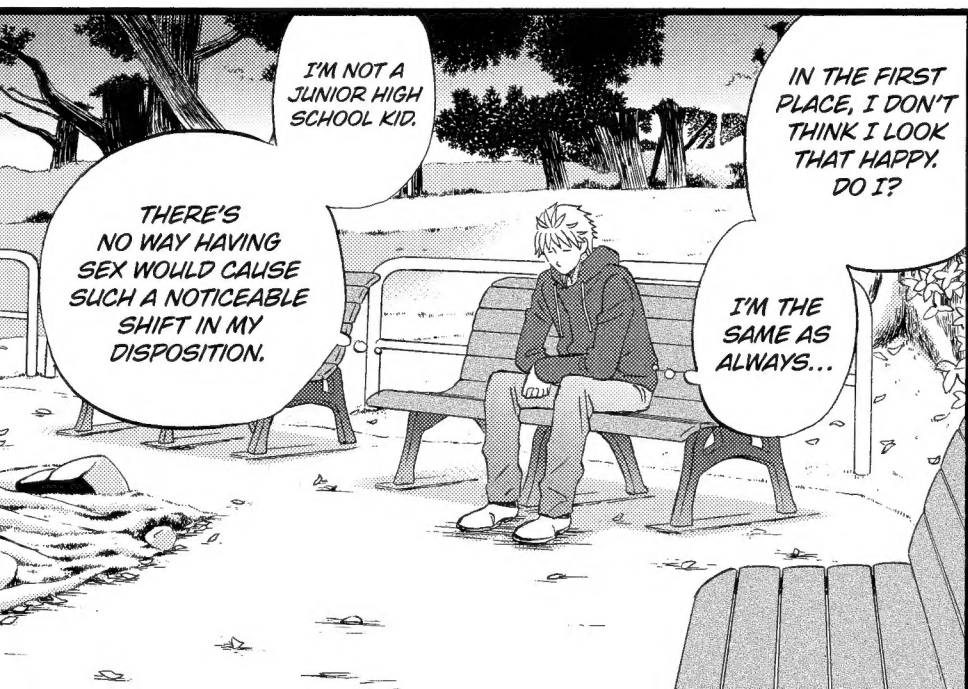
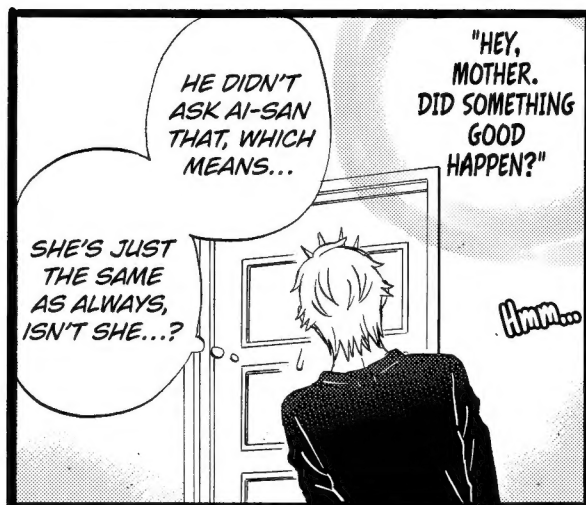
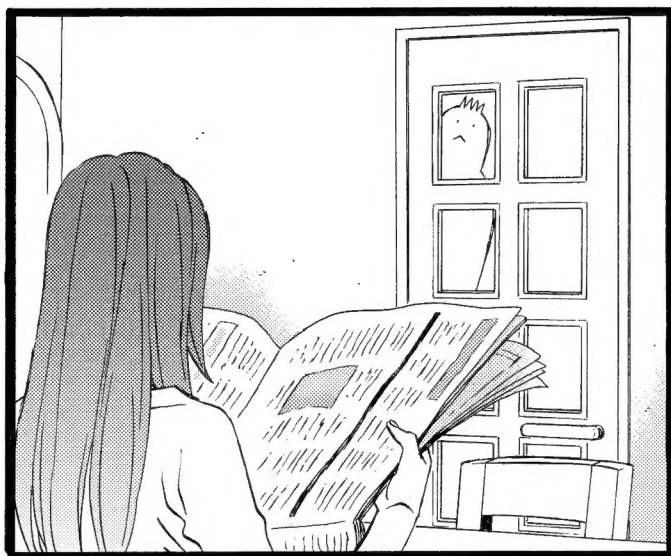
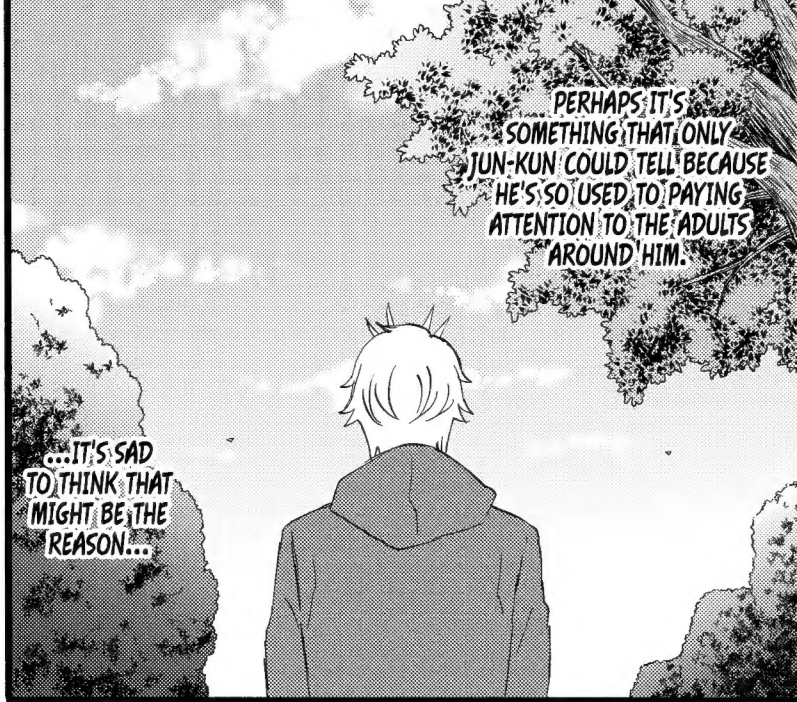
















YOU'RE
MOVIN' WAY
TOO FAST,
MAN...

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY...

SIINGH...



This and that
happened...



WELL...
I'VE BEEN
SO BUSY LATELY
I HAVEN'T HAD THE
CHANCE TO TALK
TO YOU...

AND NOW,
YA ALREADY
HAVE A
CHILD!



I DON'T
SEE YA IN
A LONG TIME,
BUT WHEN I DO,
YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED.
THEN, YA
SUDDENLY GOT
MARRIED...

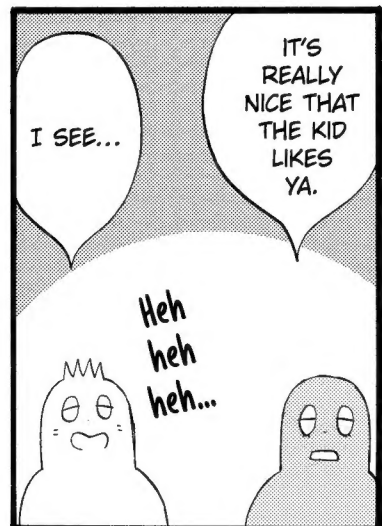
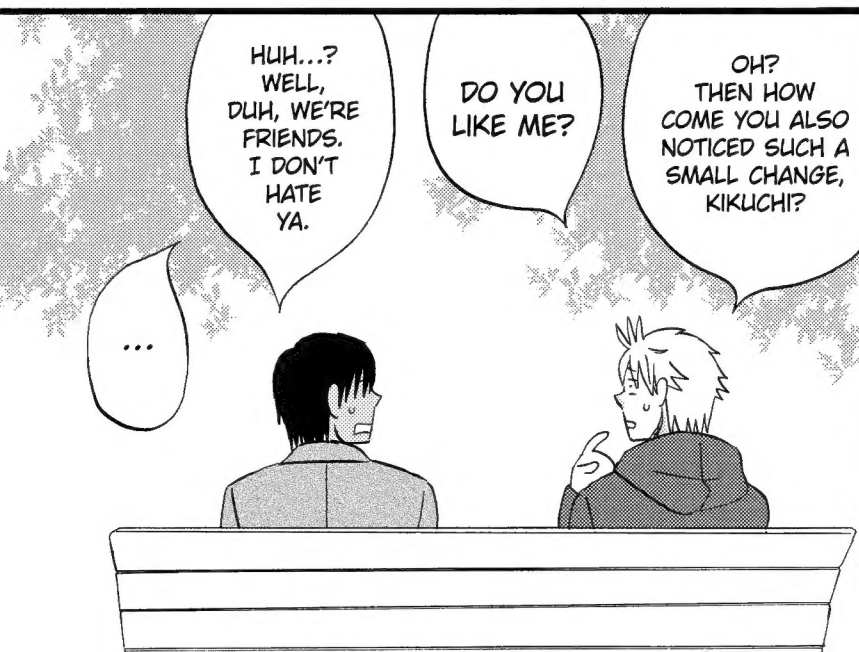
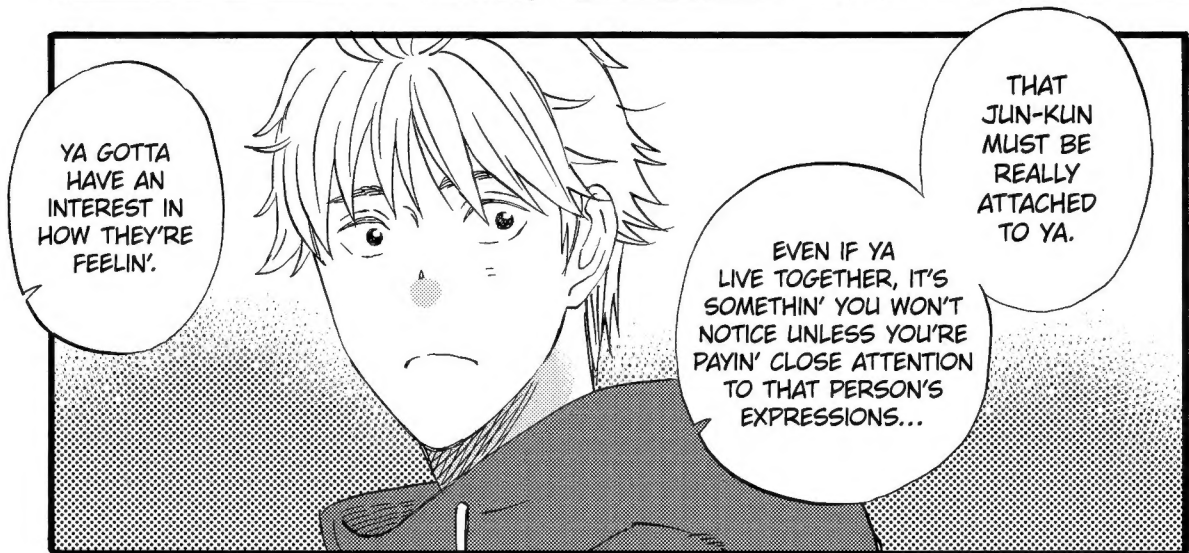
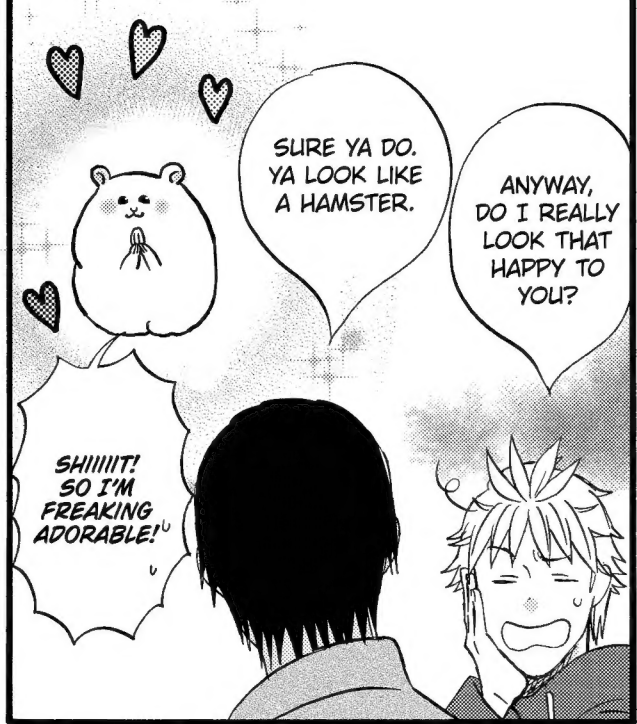


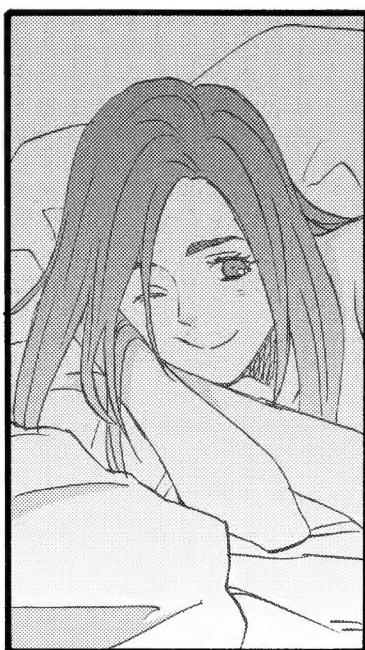
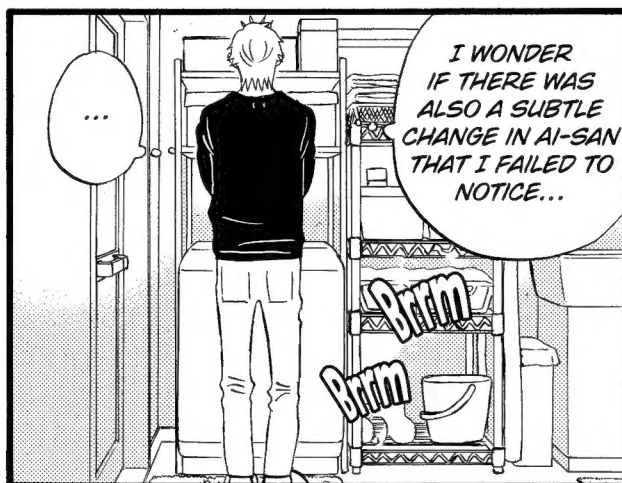
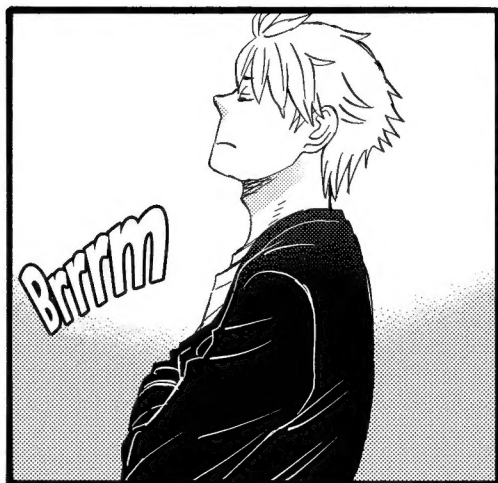
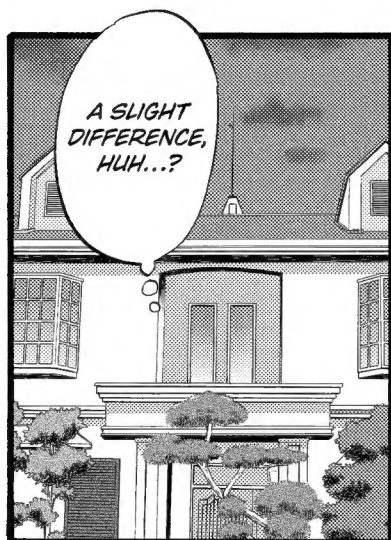
IT WOULD
ALSO BE
THE END OF
THIS STORY,
SO LET'S HOPE
THAT DOESN'T
HAPPEN!

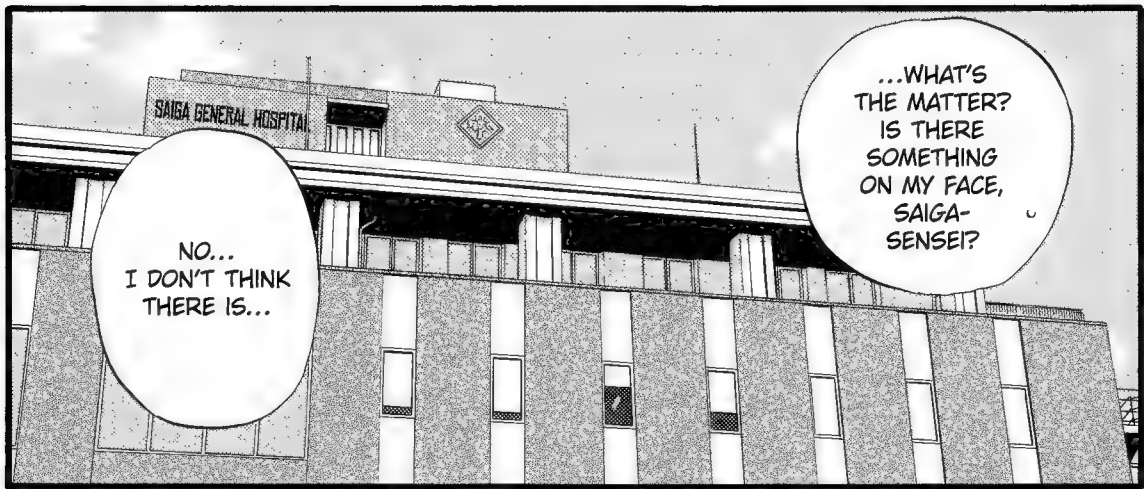
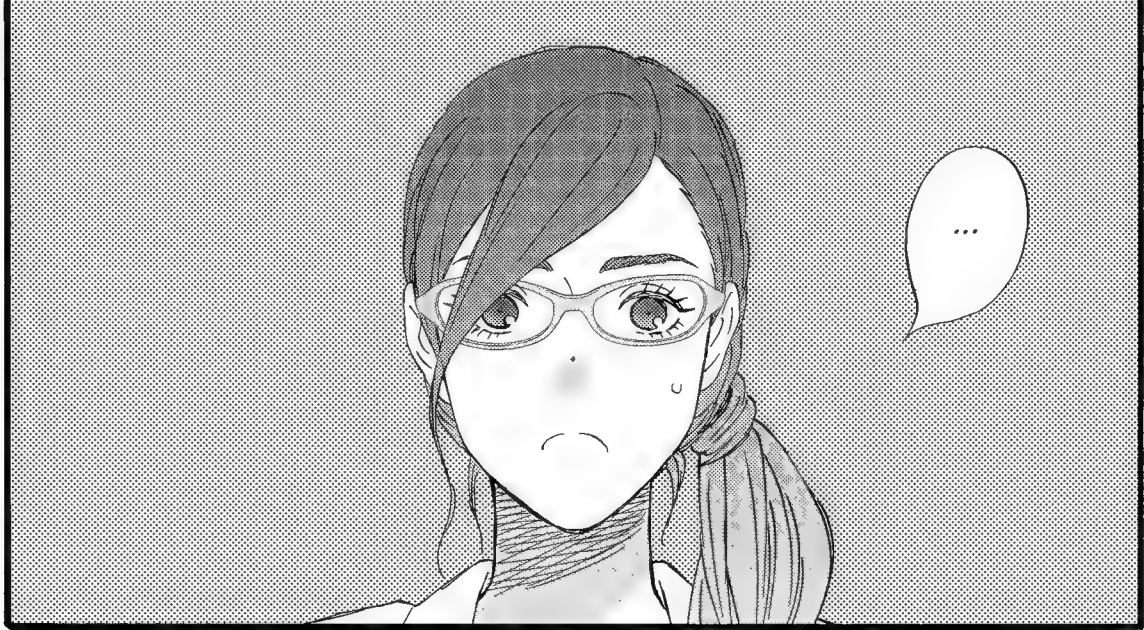
EVEN
FOR ME,
THAT'S
WAY TOO
FAST!

NEXT TIME
WE MEET,
IT'LL PROBABLY
BE AT YOUR
FUNERAL!

Smile







NO...
I DON'T THINK
THERE IS...

...WHAT'S
THE MATTER?
IS THERE
SOMETHING
ON MY FACE,
SAIGA-
SENSEI?

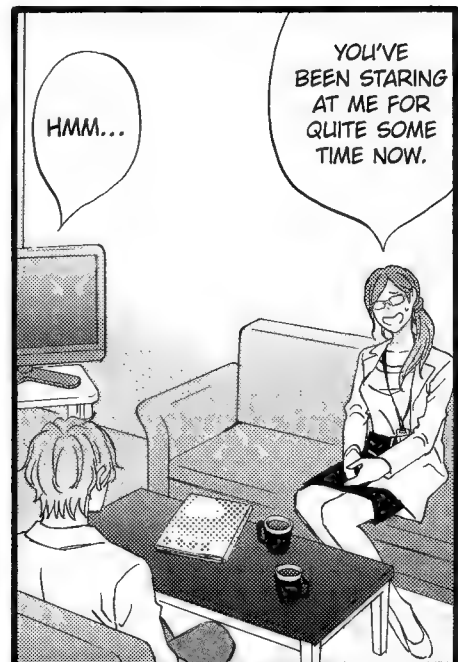


AGAIN?!

RECENTLY, I'VE
NOTICED THAT
THE ATMOSPHERE
AROUND YOU HAS
ONCE AGAIN
CHANGED.

WHAT...?
NO, I CAN'T
THINK OF
ANYTHING.

DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN,
ISHIMURA-
SENSEI?



HMM...

YOU'VE
BEEN STARING
AT ME FOR
QUITE SOME
TIME NOW.



THAT'S...
WHAT I WOULD
CALL A VERY
IMPORTANT AND
NOTICEABLE
CHANGE.

Hmm...

AT LEAST,
NOT SINCE WE
ADOPTED MIYAKE
AS OUR
CHILD...



...

I DON'T
THINK
MUCH HAS
CHANGED,
THOUGH.



INDEED.
IT SURPRISES ME
HOW THAT'S SUCH
A HEAVY STORY, BUT
YOU MAKE IT SOUND
LIKE IT'S NOT A BIG
DEAL AT ALL.

*Pretty
surprising,
right?!*

I'VE BEEN A
MOTHER FOR A
WHILE NOW.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
HIS FATHER
DISAPPEARED,
SO WE TOOK
HIM IN.

I SEE.
YOU ENDED
UP ADOPTING
HIM.



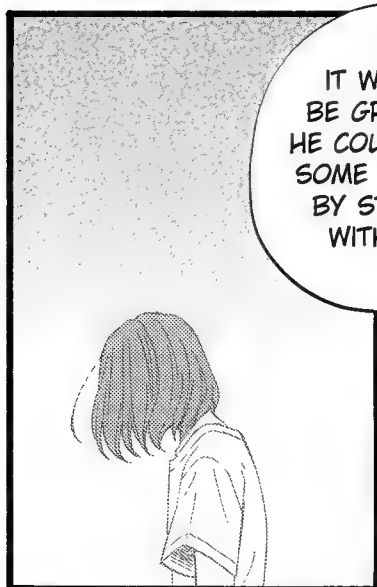
YEAH.
I THINK
SO TOO.

POOR
THING...
IT MUST'VE
BEEN QUITE
THE SHOCK
FOR HIM.



RIGHT.
IT LOOKS
LIKE SHE FLED
SOMEWHERE WITH
ANOTHER
MAN.

HIS FATHER
DISAPPEARED...
IF I RECALL
CORRECTLY, HIS
MOTHER DID THE
SAME THING,
RIGHT?



IT WOULD
BE GREAT IF
HE COULD FIND
SOME SOLACE
BY STAYING
WITH US.



HE SEEMS
TO BE LIVING
AN ORDINARY,
HAPPY LIFE NOW,
BUT I KNOW
THAT'S NOT THE
KIND OF WOUND
THAT HEALS
EASILY.



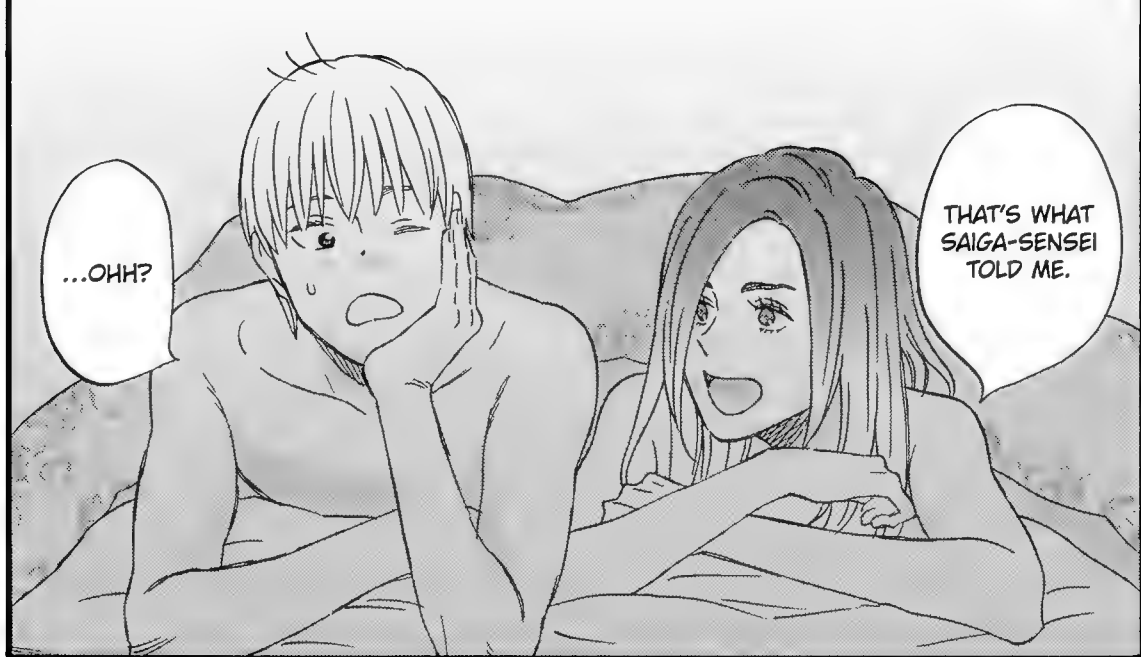
I DON'T THINK
MIYAKE-KUN WAS
BLESSED WITH
GOOD BIOLOGICAL
PARENTS,
BUT...



...SO...

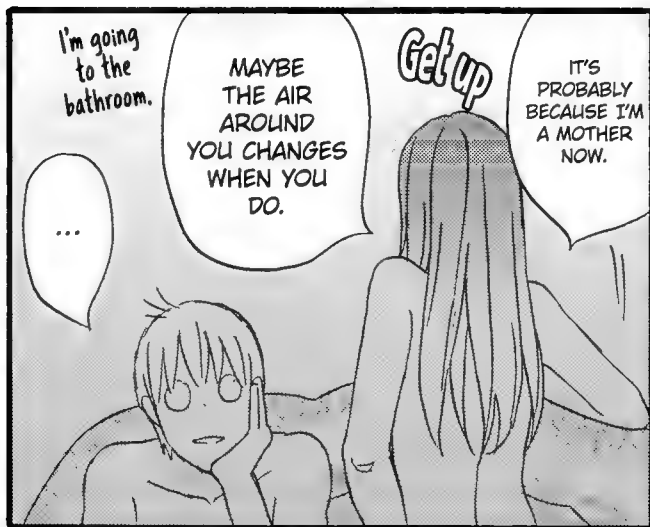
I BELIEVE
HE WAS
FORTUNATE
TO FIND A
WONDERFUL
FAMILY.





...OHH?

THAT'S WHAT
SAIGA-SENSEI
TOLD ME.



I'm going
to the
bathroom.

MAYBE
THE AIR
AROUND
YOU CHANGES
WHEN YOU
DO.

Get up

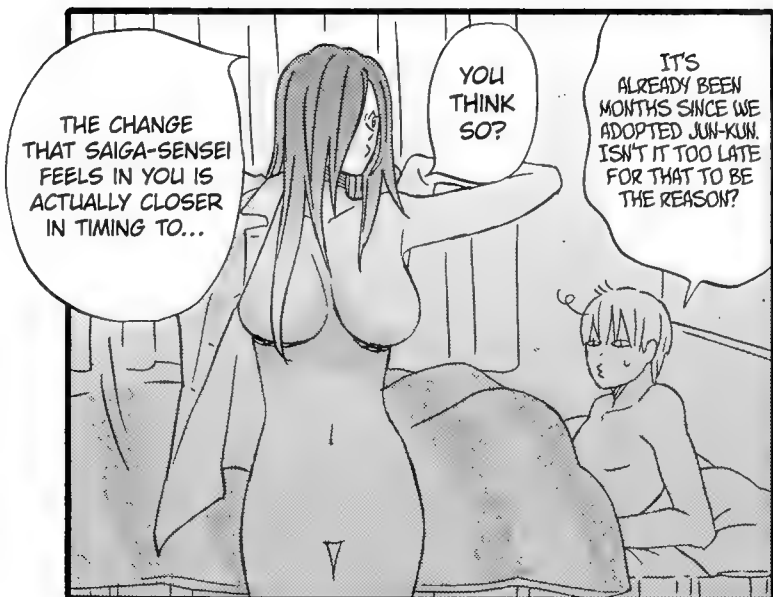
IT'S
PROBABLY
BECAUSE I'M
A MOTHER
NOW.

...



...HE SAID
THAT THE
ATMOSPHERE
AROUND
YOU HAS
CHANGED?

YEAH...

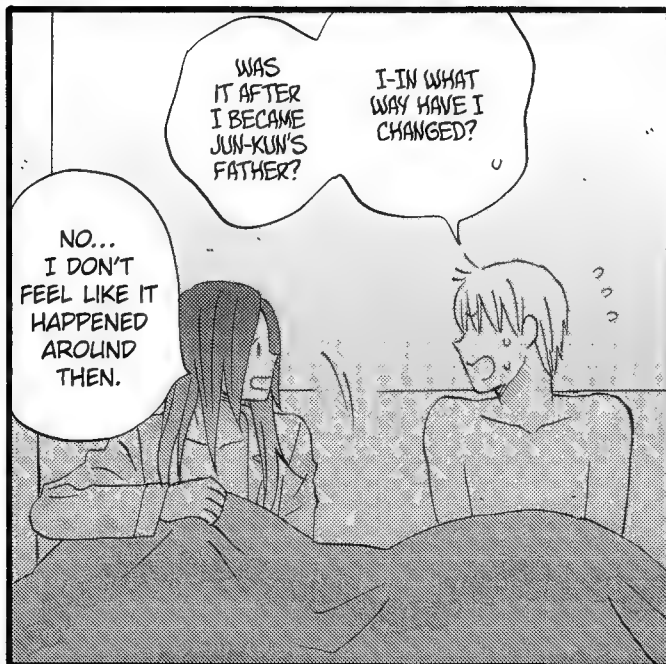
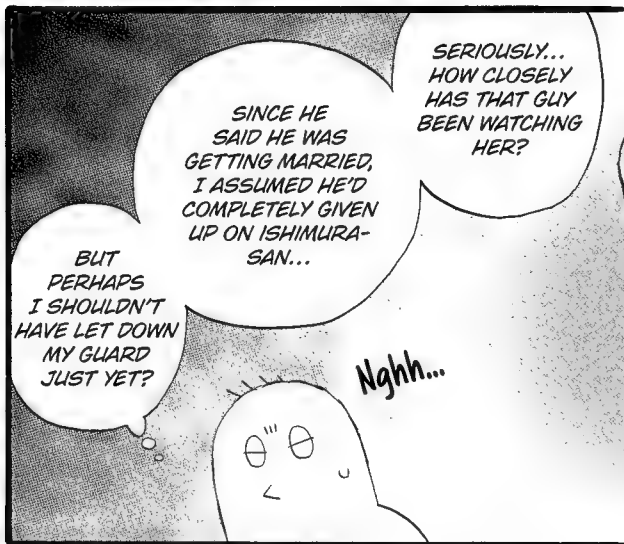
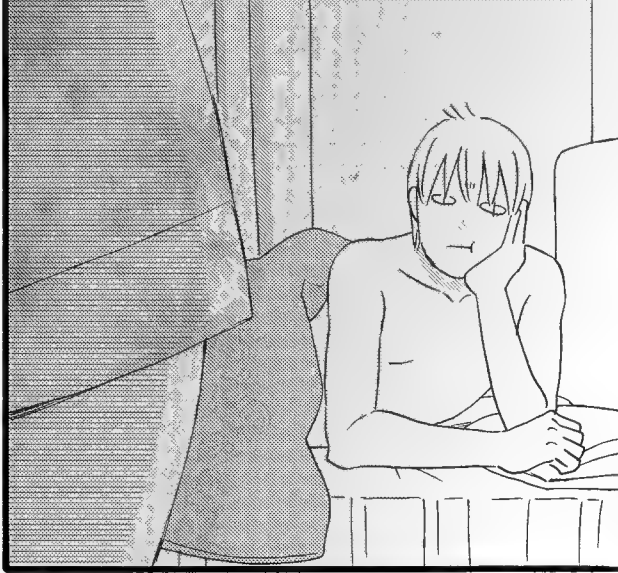


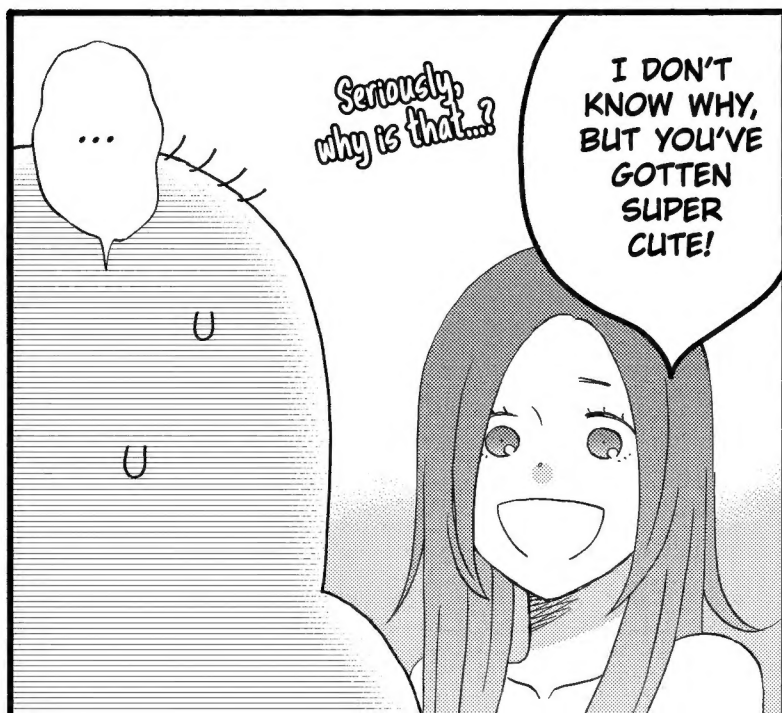
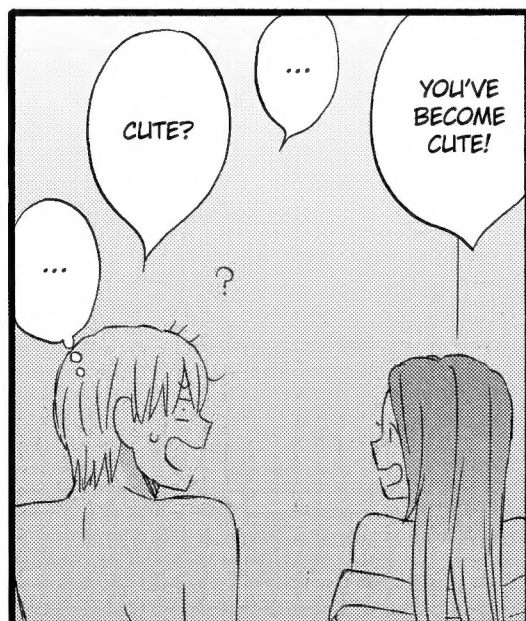
THE CHANGE
THAT SAIGA-SENSEI
FEELS IN YOU IS
ACTUALLY CLOSER
IN TIMING TO...

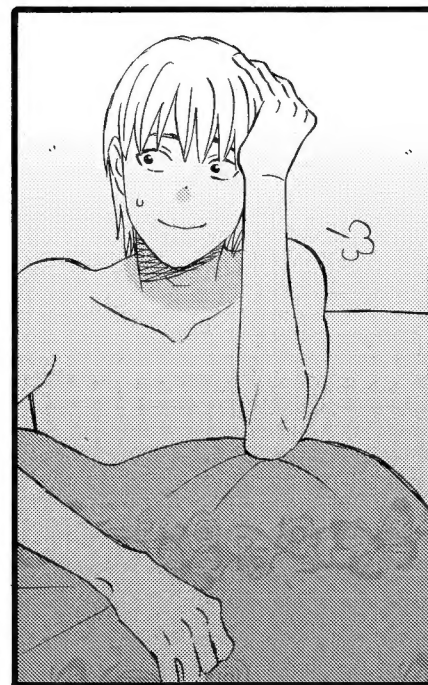
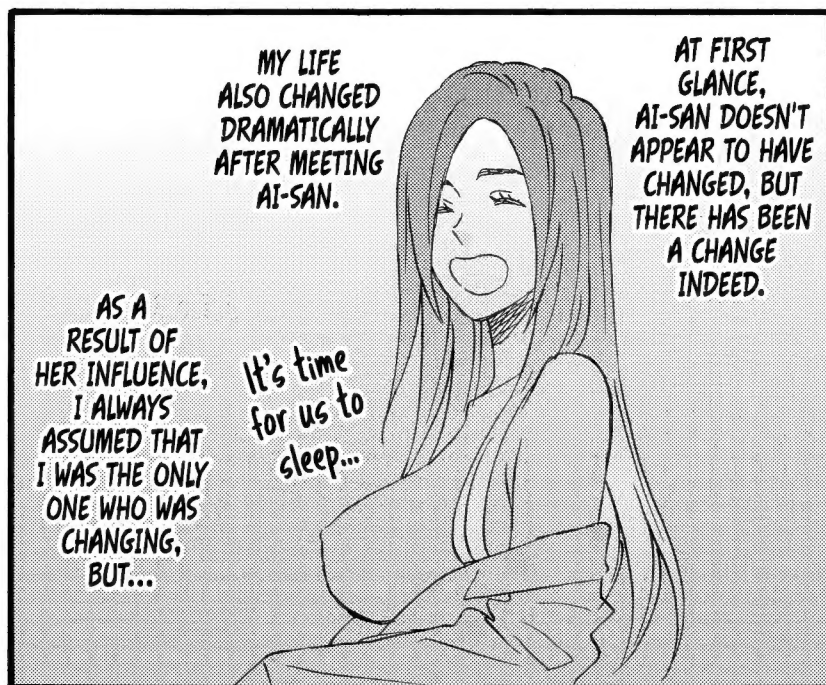
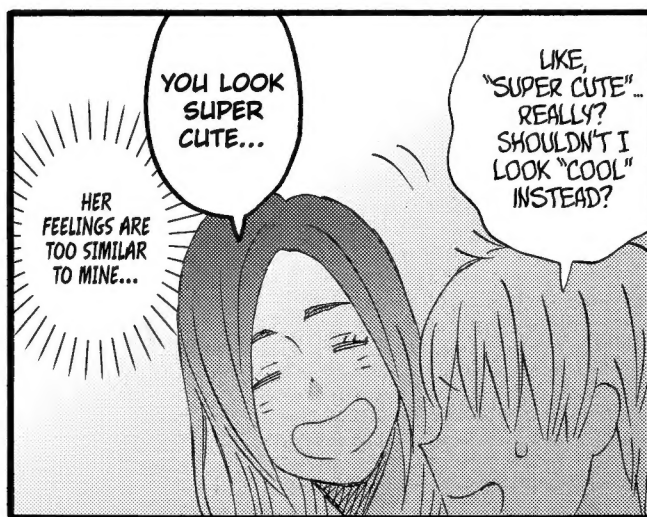
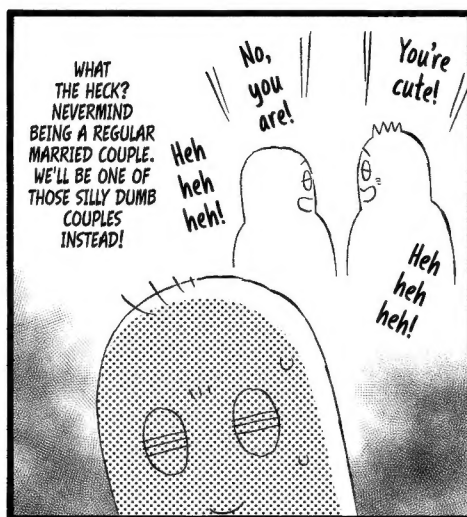
YOU
THINK
SO?

IT'S
ALREADY BEEN
MONTHS SINCE WE
ADOPTED JUN-KUN.
ISN'T IT TOO LATE
FOR THAT TO BE
THE REASON?

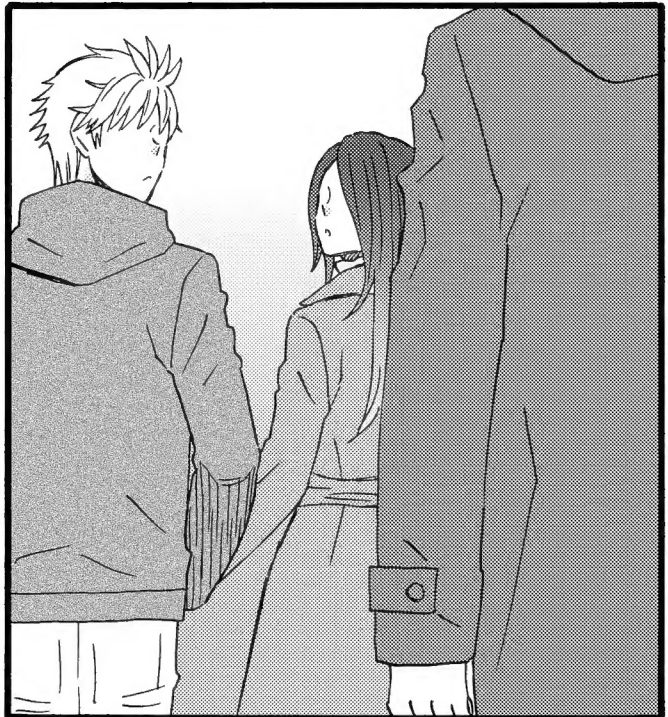
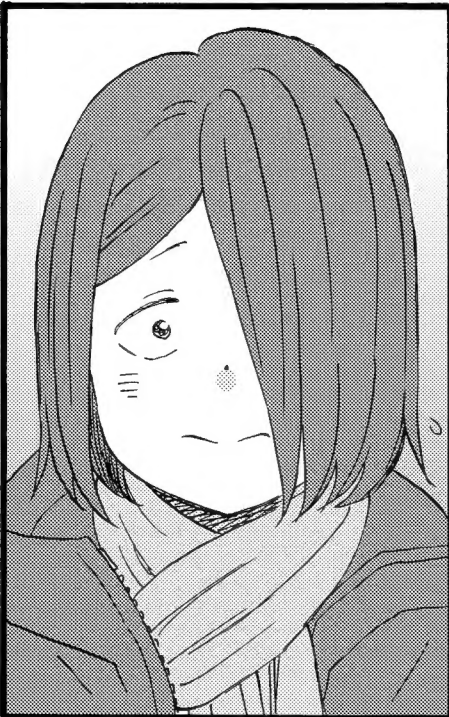


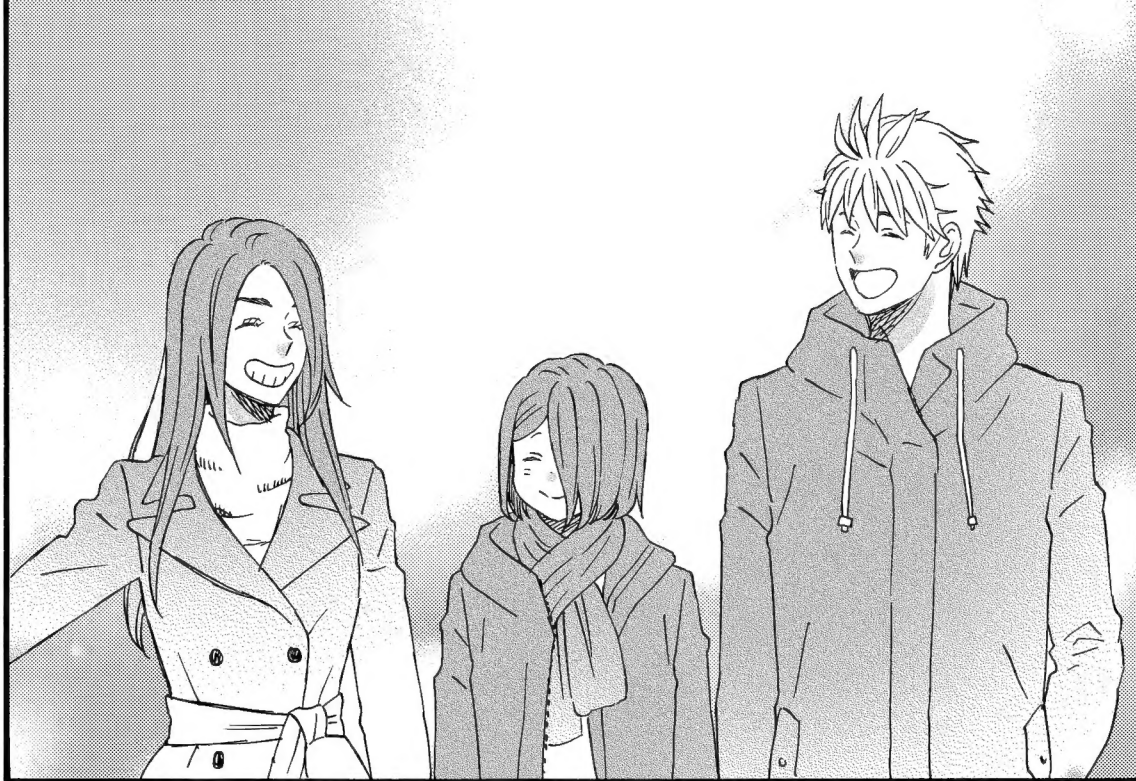






WE'VE BEEN
TOGETHER FOR
A LONG TIME.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL
THAT THE OPPOSITE
WOULD ALSO
HAPPEN.

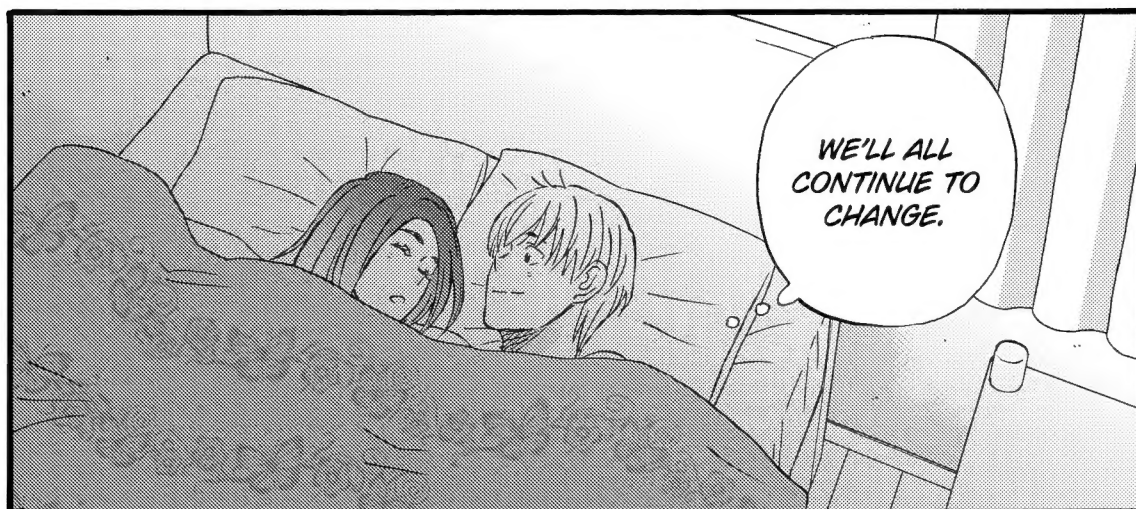




I'M SURE
THAT IN THE
FUTURE...

NOW THAT
AI-SAN AND I
HAVE BECOME
A FAMILY OF
THREE WITH
JUN-KUN...

AND,
SIMILARLY
TO HOW I AND
AI-SAN HAVE
INFLUENCED
EACH OTHER...



WE'LL ALL
CONTINUE TO
CHANGE.